

## **PSIR 110: Introduction to Political Science**

Fall 2023

(Undergraduate level | mandatory)

Department of Political Science and Philosophy

Khazar University

6 ECTS credits, 15 Weeks, 60 hours

Instructor: Farid Guliyev, PhD  
Office: Neftchilar campus, Room: 503  
[fguliyev@khazar.org](mailto:fguliyev@khazar.org)  
Office Hours: by appointment

Classroom / hours: 41 Mehseti str.  
(Neftchilar campus), Room: TBD  
Mondays: TBD

### **Course description**

The course introduces students to the basic concepts, ideas, and institutions of politics as well as varied ways in which politics interacts with society, culture and economics. We will discuss and explore basic concepts and ideas in the study of politics by considering a broad range of conceptual and theoretical approaches. The course begins with an overview of the nature of politics and political power taking a closer look at the debate about the role of concepts, models and theories in the study of politics. Next, the course will discuss the mechanisms through which societal pressures gain political expression such as identity politics and political culture. Finally, we will examine the structure and significance of key political institutions such as constitutions, executive-legislative relationships, electoral systems and political parties.

### **Course objectives:**

- The course familiarizes students with a variety of conceptual approaches and theoretical frameworks and assesses their usefulness through analysis of specific country case studies.
- By the end of the course, students will be able to apply the analytical tools and approaches learnt to a wide range of substantive issues.

### **Learning outcomes:**

After completing the course, students will be able to:

- gain a familiarity with a variety of perspectives on key debates in the field of Political Science;
- sharpen their understanding of different approaches to the major themes of the course;
- learn and be able to debate about some of the key analytical and theoretical approaches to the study of political institutions and processes;
- gain knowledge about the interrelations between government and society, political ideologies, and the political science discipline itself.
- appreciate the important role that political values play in bringing about democracy
- gain an ability to read critically about political issues and to think analytically about politically relevant topics;
- improve skills in communicating orally and in writing about politics.

### **Course requirements**

Students are expected to attend all lecture and seminar sessions, to do the assigned readings before class meetings, and to participate actively in class discussions. The final grade will be based on attendance (10%), midterm exam (30%), two quizzes (10% each), and final exam (40%).

Failure to take an exam without a duly authorized written medical excuse will result in 0 points for that exam/ assignment. You are required to inform the instructor about your absence or family emergency *at*

least 2 workdays in advance (no excuse will be granted retrospectively). Participation in a conference or other similar event is not a valid excuse.

**Two quizzes** (30 min, in-class) will be used to assess whether the student acquired the intended knowledge and skills. The **midterm** examination covers lectures and readings discussed by that point. The **final exam** covers all the course readings, lectures, and class discussion, and will be scheduled by the Registrar.

Final grades will be determined based on the following calculation:

Assignment	% of grade
1. Attendance	10%
2. In-class quiz I	10%
3. In-class quiz II	10%
4. Midterm	30%
5. Final exam	40%

**Attendance** in class is mandatory, and you are required to sign the attendance sheet I will distribute in class. Unexcused absences will result in deductions of participation points on a progressive scale as shown below. If you miss 8 (eight) or more class meetings without valid excuse (health issue or family emergency), you will automatically get an “F” for this course.

Attendance grade is calculated based on the following criteria:

Number of absences	Grade (max.10)
1	10
2	9
3	7
4	6
5	4
6	3
7	1
8	0 (F)

**Use of laptop computers or mobile devices** is not permitted in class. Please turn off your laptops and other electronic devices during lectures and discussions.

**Course readings**

Readings must be completed prior to class meetings. We will use the following book as required reading:

- Heywood, Andrew, *Politics*. 4<sup>th</sup> ed. New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2013. [HEYWOOD]

**CLASS SCHEDULE**

Week	Date	Topic	Reading
1)	Sept. 18	Introduction / Course	Instructor’s PowerPoint Slides

		Overview Key concepts What is politics?	HEYWOOD: Ch. 1
2)	Sept. 25	Political ideas and ideologies Politics and the state	HEYWOOD: Ch. 2 & Ch. 3
3)	Oct. 2	Democracy and Legitimacy Nations and nationalism	HEYWOOD: Ch. 4 & Ch. 5
4)	Oct. 9	Political economy and globalization Politics, society and identity	HEYWOOD: Ch. 6 & Ch. 7
5)	Oct. 16	Political culture and the media Representation, elections and voting <u>QUIZ 1</u>	HEYWOOD: Ch. 8 & Ch. 9
6)	Oct. 23	Parties and party systems	HEYWOOD: Ch. 10
7)	Oct. 30	Groups, interests and movements	HEYWOOD: Ch. 11
8)	Nov. 6	Governments, systems and regimes	HEYWOOD: Ch. 12
9)	Nov. 13	<u>MIDTERM EXAM</u>	
10)	Nov. 20	Political executives and leadership	HEYWOOD: Ch. 13
11)	Nov. 27	Assemblies Constitutions, laws and judges	HEYWOOD: Ch. 14 & Ch. 15

12)	Dec. 4	Public policy and the bureaucracy <u>QUIZ 2</u>	HEYWOOD: Ch. 16
13)	Dec. 11	Multilevel politics	HEYWOOD: Ch. 17
14)	Dec. 18	Security World order and governance	HEYWOOD: Ch. 18 & Ch. 19
15)	Dec. 25	A crisis in politics	HEYWOOD: Ch. 20
16)	TBD	<u>FINAL EXAM</u>	